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and the hydrographic importance of the Sierra Nevada, also called Sierra de Ahualco, of which Popocatepetl forms the southern extremity. Seen from a distance, the mountain has the form of a cone, interrupted by a lateral peak on the north-western side and another, hardly distinguishable, on the south-west; but, on a nearer view, the regularity disappears, and the volcano presents itself as an elliptical cone, with its major axis in a north-western and south-easterly direction. The summit is obliquely truncated by the enormous crater, the highest wall of which, known as the Pico Mayor, is on the north-western side. The crater forms an ellipse of about 2,000 feet by 1,300, and its depth from the Pico Mayor to the surface of the little lake at the bottom is nearly 1,700 feet.

The mountain belongs to the class of *stratified volcanoes*, in which layers of breccia, sand, ashes, etc., are superimposed upon the lava and are, in turn, covered by a later flow. All the lava-currents of Popocatepetl follow the inclination of the slope of the exterior cone, and this fact supplies the authors with an argument against the conclusion of Felix and Lenk* that the Pico del Fraile, on the side of the mountain, is the remnant of an ancient crater. It appears, on the contrary, to be the result of a process of erosion.

The paper is illustrated by four plates, a geological section of the country between Mexico and Popocatepetl, and a plan showing the formations; both maps in colours.

Projet de Construction d'un Globe Terrestre, à l'échelle du Cent-millième, par Elisée Reclus. Pamphlet. (Bruxelles?) 1895.

This pamphlet contains two papers: the one in which M. Reclus unfolds his scheme for the construction of a globe of 1,200 or 1,300 feet in circumference, and another, signed G. G., which presents arguments in favour of the scheme and details of probable cost, manner of erection, etc.

There is no denying the main thesis, that the globe is superior to the map for truthfulness of representation of surfaces and related parts of the earth; but M. Reclus strains his ingenuity to exaggerate the shortcomings of the map. If all that he says on this point is true, there is small consolation left for the subscribers to his *Universal Geography*, a work begun and carried to completion, it is now confessed, without the means of exact information.

The proposed globe is to be set on some hill, 160 or 170 feet in

* Beiträge zur Geologie und Paläontologie der Republik Mexiko. (Aus: *Paläontographica*, 37.) Stuttgart, 1891.

height, near a great capital, in a building, necessarily vast, but none the less architecturally fine. Stairways and galleries, properly disposed, will give access to any portion of the earth's surface, accurately represented for the first time, and will no doubt be thronged by students from every land.

According to G. G., practical effect may be given to this grand conception at a cost of about four million dollars.

It is not too late to suggest a modification or extension of the plan, in the interest of those who must do their studying in places remote from the fortunate capital which is to possess the model globe. Why may not lesser globes,—satellites, so to speak, of the great earth—of 200 and 100, and even of 50 feet in diameter, be constructed and made to revolve on their own axes from one end of a country to the other, as so many object lessons to young and old? The spherical form lends itself to a number of excellent purposes.

Über die Fortschritte der geographischen Namenkunde. Von Prof. Dr. J. J. Egli in Zürich. (Geographisches Jahrbuch, 1895.)

This Report covers the two years 1893 and 1894, and, like the five previously published, furnishes a vast amount of solid information concerning the etymology and derivation of place-names, set forth in a lively and original style.

At the outset Dr. Egli calls attention to two difficulties which hinder the labourer in this field. One is the dilettantism, which puts on the garb of science. It ought to be self-evident that only a German scholar can do profitable work on the place-names of a German district, a Slavic scholar on those of a Slavic region, and that no good purpose is served by gathering together conjectures and opinions and assertions instead of well-ascertained results. Such work has absolutely no value. At the same time, good work may be done by the man without philological knowledge, if only he is mindful of the saying: "Cobbler, stick to your last!" He can still collect names or furnish literary and historical contributions.

The other difficulty is the lack of acquaintance with the literature of the subject. It happens that a writer knows only a few of his ten or twenty predecessors, and those not selected, but picked up by chance, and then opinions long since refuted rise to the surface once more as new knowledge, and correct information is buried. This may well be called a Sisyphus labour, to vex the soul.

In the pages devoted to America (86-89) Dr. Egli notices: the